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OFFICER-INVOLVED SHOOTINGS

Portland (ME) Press Herald: Police shooting task force recommends training, access to mental health care

A state task force charged with examining police-involved shootings issued a report Monday recommending wider access to mental health care for all Mainers, and more training in crisis intervention for police and dispatchers. Task force members also called for the courts to increase the use of mandated mental health treatment plans.

HIRING

Boston Globe: Ideas on increasing diversity at State Police draw criticism

How do you improve diversity and equity at the Massachusetts State Police, where eight in 10 troopers are white men, no minorities hold high-ranking positions, and which has faced numerous discrimination accusations? That was the weighty question a special commission studied throughout the fall before issuing several recommendations last month. But the group's proposals have sparked criticism. Detractors, including a trooper who served on the commission, say the ideas won't bring nearly enough change.

TECHNOLOGY

Washington Post: Amazon facial-identification software used by police falls short on tests for accuracy and bias, new research finds

Facial-recognition software developed by Amazon and marketed to local and federal law enforcement as a powerful crime-fighting tool struggles to pass basic tests of accuracy, such as correctly identifying a person's gender, research released Thursday says. Researchers with M.I.T. Media Lab also said Amazon's Rekognition system performed more accurately when assessing lighter-skinned faces, raising concerns about how biased results could tarnish the artificial-intelligence technology's use by police and in public venues, including airports and schools.

CRIME RATES

Associated Press: Stats show crime is down in L.A.; 'one of the safest times to live in Los Angeles,' police chief says

Crime is down in every category in Los Angeles and homicides are at their second lowest in more than 50 years, the city's mayor and police chief announced Monday. At 259, homicides in the nation's second-largest city fell 8.2 percent in 2018, while rapes were down 12.4 percent, gang crimes decreased by 8 percent and property crime went down 2 percent, Mayor Eric Garcetti said. Additionally, homicides were at their second lowest in 52 years, said Los Angeles police Chief Michel Moore, who became chief last year.

BODY-WORN CAMERAS

Government Technology: Data pinpoints the moment when police body cameras took off

After police fatally shot Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., in the latter half of 2014, his family

publicly declared that every police officer in the U.S. should wear body cameras. That moment is widely cited as the moment that propelled law enforcement agencies across the country to start buying the devices. And data indeed shows a marked rise in body camera purchases after Brown's death and the subsequent nationwide protests - but the flurry of body camera purchases didn't reach its peak until about a year and a half later, after the Obama administration introduced grants through the Department of Justice to help law enforcement agencies pay for them.

BODY-WORN CAMERAS

Wichita (KS) Eagle: Wichita police are getting 539 new body cameras for officers and field sergeants

Wichita police are getting upgraded body cameras for officers and new cameras for supervisors about two months after a captain said a police shooting showed the need for new technology. The department was already planning to outfit officers and field sergeants with the new Axon cameras before a motorcycle officer had difficulty turning on his body camera during a police chase that led to him shooting at the other driver. Officers are being trained on how to use the 479 upgraded cameras for field personnel, Officer Charley Davidson said. An additional 60 new cameras will be purchased for field sergeants and are expected to be in use early this year.

POLICE EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

Ottawa Citizen: Police Chief Charles Bordeleau set to retire in May

Police Chief Charles Bordeleau has told all officers that he intends to "publicly" announce his retirement at today's police board meeting. Bordeleau's contract is up on May 4 and there have been no serious discussions to extend it. The new board, sworn in in November, has been actively planning for a new chief, though the job has not yet been posted. Bordeleau became chief of the city force in 2012 for what was to be a five-year contract. In 2016, it was extended for an additional two years.

POLICE EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

Irish Times: PSNI Chief Constable George Hamilton to retire in June

George Hamilton has announced he will retire from his role as Chief Constable of the PSNI when his contract ends in June. Mr Hamilton has served for five years in the post and almost

34 years in the police service.

Register for the PERF Annual Meeting, May 28-31 in Miami Beach

PERF will once again hold its Annual Meeting in conjunction with the conferences of the Major Cities Chiefs Association and the FBI National Executive Institute Associates. All registrants will be welcome to attend all meetings, sessions and events sponsored by PERF, MCCA, and NEIA during the Annual Meeting. Click on the headline above for more information.

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